



# AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS Canberra

CATALOGUE NO. 6321.0

NOON 16 SEPTEMBER 1981

STATE  
LIBRARY OF N.S.W.

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, AUSTRALIA, JUNE 1981

26 MAY 1982

**PHONE INQUIRIES** *for more information about these statistics*—contact Mr Ansis Rieksts on Canberra (062) 52 6576 or any of our State offices.

*other inquiries including copies of publications*—contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6627 or in any of our State offices.

**MAIL INQUIRIES** *write to* Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 or any of our State offices.

### MAIN FEATURES

During June 1981 approximately 369,400 working days were lost by 169,700 workers involved in 314 disputes in which 10 man-days or more were lost. The main disputes involved metal product industry employees in five States, communication employees in all States, and transport workers in all States and Territories.

In the six months to June 1981 approximately 1,419,000 working days were lost in 1,425 disputes. This compares with 1,836,000 working days lost in 1,067 disputes in the six months to June 1980.

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

#### Introduction

More detailed information about disputes appears in the quarterly publication *Industrial Disputes, Australia* (6322.0).

2. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled according to the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC), described in *Australian Standard Industrial Classification, 1978*, Vol. 1 (1201.0).

#### Coverage

3. The statistics refer only to disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more. Workers involved include workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Workers indirectly involved are those thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute. Particulars of some stoppages (e.g. those involving a large number of establishments) may have been estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving a broad measure of the extent of stoppages of work (as defined).

4. Stoppages of work occurring at different times and at different establishments, but having a common cause may be regarded as one industrial dispute. However, an industrial dispute occurring in more than one State is counted as a separate dispute in each State. The monthly statistics refer to all disputes operative in the month, including those disputes that commenced in previous months. In Table 1 details of the number of disputes and workers involved are shown separately for disputes beginning in the month and for all disputes. Average days lost per worker involved on a monthly basis are not comparable with the yearly averages, because workers involved are included in each month in which they are involved in disputes, while they are counted once only for each dispute in the annual statistics.

#### Related publications

5. Users may also wish to refer to the following publication:

*Industrial Disputes, Australia* (6322.0)—quarterly and annual.

6. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

#### Symbols and other usages

- p preliminary—figure subject to revision
- r revised
- nil or rounded to zero

7. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

**R. J. CAMERON**  
Australian Statistician



TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of disputes		Workers involved ('000)		Working days lost		Estimated loss in wages(a) (\$'000)
	Commenced in period	Total(a)	Newly involved(b)	Total(a)	Number(a) ('000)	Average days per worker involved(c)	
1978	2,276	2,277	1,075.6	1,075.6	2,130.8	2.0	78,404
1979	2,040	2,042	1,861.6	1,862.9	3,964.4	2.1	148,614
1980	2,420	2,429	1,165.2	1,172.8	3,320.2	2.8	152,022
1980—							
May	171	222	177.9	207.8	409.2	2.0	19,228
June	170	227	59.3	104.8	219.4	2.1	10,120
July	222	271	52.9	135.8	318.3	2.3	16,317
August	201	252	74.8	141.1	316.5	2.2	15,791
September	273	317	63.6	114.6	218.5	1.9	10,296
October	284	345	75.8	135.7	254.2	1.9	11,387
November	240	310	104.9	129.8	250.1	1.9	12,318
December	142	211	38.9	61.7	126.7	2.1	6,256
1981—							
January	156	184	50.3	64.9	89.8	1.4	4,531
February	261	317	83.8	126.4	318.8	2.5	15,738
March	r269	r338	70.9	105.2	248.1	2.4	13,279
April p	r199	r269	46.7	91.6	176.2	1.9	9,766
May p	275	340	67.5	107.7	216.2	2.0	11,291
June p	237	314	120.2	169.7	369.4	2.2	19,471

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) Comprises workers involved in disputes which commenced during the month and additional workers involved in disputes which continued from the previous month. (c) Monthly figures are not comparable with yearly figures.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES(a) : INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

Period	Mining		Manufacturing		Construction	Transport and storage; Communication		Other industries (b)	All industries
	Coal	Other	Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other		Stevedoring services	Other		
1978	142.3	125.1	732.1	490.2	134.1	122.9	166.9	217.2	2,130.8
1979	232.6	283.6	929.7	749.0	359.7	114.3	435.8	859.7	3,964.4
1980	710.7	197.7	615.9	728.4	217.9	73.4	142.5	633.7	3,320.2
1980—									
May	150.7	13.9	93.5	92.7	17.8	4.7	18.8	17.1	409.2
June	21.4	4.5	24.0	77.5	17.9	7.2	14.6	52.2	219.4
July	137.2	5.9	39.4	58.7	34.9	4.0	3.6	34.5	318.3
August	108.2	11.7	58.0	44.7	26.5	16.8	21.0	29.5	316.5
September	47.0	15.6	52.4	31.3	15.1	5.8	6.3	44.9	218.5
October	15.7	40.7	41.6	61.6	35.3	1.0	8.4	49.8	254.2
November	9.7	29.5	40.8	64.9	9.0	3.0	6.6	86.4	250.1
December	6.1	12.1	30.2	38.8	8.6	0.8	3.9	26.1	126.7
1981—									
January	4.8	4.8	12.9	11.9	6.6	2.2	5.3	41.3	89.8
February	12.7	39.5	45.1	22.8	16.9	5.7	42.1	134.1	318.8
March	21.7	41.4	98.7	16.0	24.7	5.3	25.8	14.5	248.1
April p	12.6	9.8	69.2	12.3	28.6	7.1	17.5	19.2	176.2
May p	11.6	29.2	109.6	16.8	r23.1	3.5	11.4	r11.1	216.2
June p	34.3	22.8	104.5	66.0	36.5	1.0	69.8	34.5	369.4

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) ASIC divisions A, D, F, I to L.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES(a) : WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.(b)
1978	970.8	468.1	360.3	79.1	197.9	35.4	2,130.8
1979	1,369.9	1,486.1	467.9	186.5	348.1	59.8	3,964.4
1980	1,208.6	1,115.4	618.7	59.4	191.0	91.5	3,320.2
1980—							
May	168.3	124.8	73.0	11.8	15.1	8.8	409.2
June	85.4	42.0	39.2	9.6	38.9	2.1	219.4
July	114.0	46.5	130.4	6.3	16.1	4.0	318.3
August	70.8	94.6	134.3	2.9	4.3	7.1	316.5
September	70.6	60.5	58.1	2.2	14.1	9.7	218.5
October	104.7	47.0	46.6	7.0	13.3	34.0	254.2
November	120.8	55.6	33.6	7.1	14.5	17.0	250.1
December	53.7	41.0	13.9	0.2	12.6	0.9	126.7
1981—							
January	63.8	9.2	12.2	0.9	2.1	1.6	89.8
February	218.0	40.7	26.5	7.5	15.8	2.5	318.8
March	129.6	49.6	40.6	5.6	17.8	0.5	248.1
April p	87.0	41.7	27.1	7.5	7.2	0.2	176.2
May p	121.7	36.0	29.4	4.4	15.5	1.0	216.2
June p	144.5	100.1	68.7	20.2	26.3	3.2	369.4

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.